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0 060545Z APR 87
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6284
INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE
USIA WASHDC 1639
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IDM//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
RUCLFNA/347 TFW MODOY AFB GA//IN//
USOCCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAS-1D-CMI//

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAD;
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MS. MILLIKAN; THE HAGUE FOR
A-DAM AND R-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL 4/6/93
TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, SREF, UR, AF
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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: MARCH 30, 1987 - APRIL 5, 1987

REF: KABUL 0547 NR

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE BRIEFED TO JOURNALISTS
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED. (NOTE TO BRIEFERS IN ISLAMABAD,
PESHAWAR AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHDC/MB

Cur
10/23/87
(b)(1)

ON SUMMARIES AND SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM PARAS 4 AND 5.)

3. SUMMARY:

(A) (FOR PRESS BRIEFING:) MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND KABUL INTENSIFIED THIS WEEK AS DID SOVIET/ORA ATTEMPTS TO INTERDICT MUJAHIDIN RETURNING TO THE AREA. THERE WAS PROTRACTED FIGHTING TO THE NORTH OF THE CITY WHILE TWO MAJOR HELICOPTER ASSAULT GROUP DEPARTURES INDICATED SIGNIFICANT COMBAT ALSO TO THE EAST. MEANWHILE, FIGHTING ELSEWHERE SUGGESTS MUJAHIDIN ARE INFILTRATING BACK INTO THE AREA SOUTH AND WEST OF THE CITY. REGIME OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY EXPECT A MAJOR MUJAHIDIN PUSH ON KABUL THIS SPRING. IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, A SENIOR REGIME AND PARTY FIGURE CLAIMS THAT THE POPA PLENUM PREDICTED FOR LATE MARCH WILL CONVENE THIS WEEK OR NEXT. HE EXPLAINS THAT THE DELAY RESULTED FROM COMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH KHALQI FACTION AGITATION FOR GREATER POWER. REPORTS FROM KANDAHAR, LAGHMAN AND THE NORTH INDICATE INCREASINGLY COMMON SOVIET/ORA REPRISALS AGAINST CIVILIAN AREAS. OF PARTICULAR NOTE ARE SOVIET REPRISAL RAIDS IN KUNDUZ FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL MUJAHIDIN RAID ON A FACILITY IN SOVIET TADZHIKISTAN. THERE ARE REPORTS OF MAJOR NEW SOVIET TROOP DEPLOYMENTS INTO THE KANDAHAR AREA, POSSIBLY PRESAGING A SOVIET ATTEMPT TO CORDON OFF THE CITY FROM MUJAHIDIN PENETRATION.

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(B) (NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:) IN ADDITION TO DEEPENING DIVISIONS BETWEEN THE POPA'S PARCHAMI AND KHALQI FACTIONS, ETHNIC TENSIONS ARE ALSO COMING TO THE FORE WITH NON-PASHTOONS SHOWING INCREASING RESENTMENT AND CONCERN OVER THE GROWING PREPONDERANCE OF PASHTOON POWER IN THE PARTY AND REGIME. THE SOVIETS, FOR THEIR PART, MAY BE OPTING FOR A GREATER PASHTOON ROLE. TO INCLUDE GREATER RELIANCE ON THE PASHTOON-DOMINATED KHALQI FACTION.
END SUMMARY.

4. KABUL PYRDTECHNICS:

MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITY IN KABUL PICKED UP THIS WEEK AS INDICATED BY INCREASED SHOOTING WITHIN THE CITY AND HEIGHTENED SOVIET/ORA SECURITY MEASURES. MEANWHILE, THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN THE AREA SURROUNDING THE CITY ALSO INTENSIFIED AS EVIDENCE BY INCREASED ARTILLERY FIRE FROM SOVIET AND ORA BASES IN KABUL.

-- MARCH 30: FROM MID-DAY UNTIL APRIL 2, FOUR SOVIET STR'S MAINTAINED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS IN THE MICRORAYON. ORA TROOPS STRUNG BARBED WIRE ALONG A PORTION OF THE MAIN STREET RUNNING THROUGH THE MICRORAYON AND PREVENTED PRIVATE CARS FROM PARKING ALONG THE CURB.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 09 KABUL 0593

-- MARCH 31: A DIPLOMAT REPORTS AN EXPLOSION AT 0258. AT
0630 ARTILLERY UNITS IN NORTH KABUL FIRED TO THE NORTHWEST.
SEVERAL DIPLOMATS REPORT AN EXPLOSION AT 0648 WHICH AFGHAN
SOURCES SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED WAS CAUSED BY A BOMB THAT
DETONATED IN A MINISTRY COMPOUND. AT 0715 DIPLOMATS NOTED A SECOND
EXPLOSION IN THE CITY. BETWEEN 0840 AND 0855 TWO HELICOPTERS
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CIRCLED A LARGE PLUME OF BLACK SMOKE WHICH ROSE FROM AN AREA
NORTHWEST OF THE AIRPORT. A DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT A BOMB
EXPLODED IN THE DEH MAZANG AREA AT 1000. BETWEEN 1235 AND
1345 DIPLOMATS HEARD CONCENTRATED OUTGOING ARTILLERY FIRE TO THE
SOUTHEAST. AT 1245 A DIPLOMAT REPORTS AUTOMATIC WEAPONS
FIRE IN SHARE NAU. AT 2245 DIPLOMATS HEARD MACHINEGUN FIRE
IN WAZIR AKBAR KHAN.

-- APRIL 1: A DIPLOMAT REPORTS AN EXPLOSION IN WAZIR AKBAR
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-- MARCH 31: AT 0650 A MAJOR SOVIET CONVOY COMPRISING OVER
150 VEHICLES AND THREE TRANSPORT UNITS (VEHICLE NUMBERS 1022, 1041
AND 1914 - THE LATTER NOT PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED IN THE KABUL AREA)
MOVED OFF THE PERIMETER ROAD AND EASTWARD TOWARDS JALALABAD.
OVER HALF OF THE VEHICLES IN THE CONVOY CARRIED AMMUNITION,
INCLUDING THREE TRUCKLOADS OF 122MM ROCKETS. THE CONVOY WAS
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ESCORTED BY 22 BTR'S (MOSTLY BTR-80'S), 10 BMP-2'S AND
9 ZIL-MOUNTED ZU-23 GUNS. (APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD OF THE
TRUCK DRIVERS WERE OF CENTRAL ASIAN ORIGIN.) AT 1445 A
SOVIET PATROL OF APPROXIMATELY 10 MBP'S MOVED NORTHWEST ON BLUE
MOSQUE STREET.

-- APRIL 1: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT A MASSIVE SOVIET
CONVOY MOVED THROUGH KABUL TOWARD LOGAR FROM APPROXIMATELY
MIDNIGHT TO DAWN.

-- APRIL 2: AT 1730 A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED APPROXIMATELY 50 OPEN-BED TRUCKS ASSEMBLING FOR MOVEMENT NORTH ON SALANG ROAD. AT THE SAME TIME TEN BTR 80'S MOVED OFF SALANG ONTO PERIMETER ROAD.

-- APRIL 3: AT 0800 A SOVIET PATROL OF 23 BTR'S (BTR-70'S AND 80'S) LEFT PERIMETER ROAD HEADED OVERLAND IN THE DIRECTION OF THE EAST-WEST RUNNING RIDGE BORDERING THE ROAD TO THE NORTH.

-- APRIL 4: AT 0640 A SOVIET CONVOY OF APPROXIMATELY 70 VEHICLES, ESCORTED BY 8 BTR-80'S, WAS OBSERVED STAGED HEADED NORTH ON PERIMETER ROAD. DURING THE AFTERNOON A DIPLOMAT SAW 75 FUEL TANKERS MOVING NORTH ON THE SALANG ROAD.

-- APRIL 5: AT 0530 A LARGE SOVIET ARMORED PATROL MOVED THROUGH THE CITY CENTER AND SOUTHWARD ON THE LOGAR ROAD. THE PATROL INCLUDED: 6 TANKS, 12 BMP'S, 4 BMD'S, 2 ZIL-MOUNTED ZU-23 GUNS AND FOUR TRUCKS CARRYING AMMO. AT MIDDAY, A DIPLOMAT ENCOUNTERED TWO SMALL SOVIET ARMORED PATROLS MOVING WEST ON PERIMETER ROAD (3BMP'S WITH 4 BTR-80'S AND A SECOND COMPOSED OF 5 BTR-80'S AND 3 COVERED TRUCKS). AT THE SAME TIME A PATROL OF 9 BMP'S AND 5 TRUCKS, ALL OBVIOUSLY HAVING COME IN FROM THE FIELD, ENTERED NORTHERN KABUL FROM THE SALANG ROAD. CONFIDENTIAL
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5. MILITARY MOVEMENT IN THE KABUL AREA:

(A) (AIR): NIGHTTIME AIR ACTIVITY AND ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE OF IL-76'S WAS HEAVY DURING THE WEEK. HELICOPTERS PATROLED HILLS IN THE AIRPORT AREA AGGRESSIVELY. TWO HELICOPTER ASSAULT FORCES WERE NOTED HEADED EAST DURING THE WEEK. HELICOPTER FORMATIONS ALSO DEPARTED AFTER DARK.

-- MARCH 30: FIVE IL-76'S AND TWO AEROFLOT CRAFT ARRIVED/DEPARTED.

-- MARCH 31: FOUR IL-76'S ARRIVED/DEPARTED. DURING THE DAY HELICOPTERS FLEW FREQUENTLY FROM THE AIRPORT TOWARDS THE SPRAWLING SOVIET BASE AREA SOUTH OF DARULAMAN.

-- APRIL 1: FIVE IL-76'S ARRIVED/DEPARTED.

-- APRIL 2: TWO IL-76'S ARRIVED/DEPARTED.

-- APRIL 3: THREE IL-76'S ARRIVED/DEPARTED. DURING THE EVENING, APPROXIMATELY 20 AN-12'S AND AN-26'S DEPARTED ALONG WITH FOUR LIFTS OF HELICOPTERS.

-- APRIL 4: THREE IL-76'S ARRIVED/DEPARTED. DURING THE AFTERNOON, 30 MI-24'S AND MI-8'S LEFT KABUL FLYING EAST-SOUTHEAST AT VERY LOW ALTITUDE IN ATTACK FORMATION.

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-- COMBAT IN THE PROVINCES --

6. KABUL PROVINCE (CITY DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED PARA 4):

(A) (NORTHERN KABUL:) AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING
IN KARIZ-E-MIR (34°38'N 69°03'E) AND SHAKAR DARREH (34°41'N 69°01'E)
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APRIL 3-4. ARTILLERY FIRE IMPACTING IN THE AREA, VISIBLE FROM
KABUL, AND HEAVY MACHINEGUN FIRE IN THE AREA OF THE SALANG
PASS, AUOIBLE FROM PERIMETER ROAD. (PARA 4) APPEARS TO
CONFIRM THE REPORT.

(B) (WESTERN KABUL:) DURING THE MORNING OF APRIL 3, DIPLOMATS
HEARD ARTILLERY FIRE SOUTHEAST OF KARGHA LAKE AND NOTED
SOUTH-TD-NORTH JET FIGHTER FLIGHTS WEST OF THE LAKE.

(C) (SOUTHERN KABUL:) ARTILLERY FIRE TO THE SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST DURING THE WEEK (SEE PARA 4) APPEARS TO POINT TO CONFLICT IN THAT AREA.

7. KANDAHAR:

WELL-INFORMED DIPLOMATS REPORT THAT MANY, POSSIBLY THOUSANDS OF SOVIET TROOPS HAVE DEPLOYED OR CURRENTLY ARE DEPLOYING AROUND KANDAHAR. ONE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT THE DEPLOYMENT IS AIMED AT CUTTING OFF MUJAHIDIN UNITS IN KANDAHAR FROM THEIR LINES OF SUPPORT OUTSIDE THE CITY. A SECOND REPORT FROM A PARTICULARLY RELIABLE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT THE MOVEMENT OF SOVIETS, DRAWN FROM KABUL, HERAT AND SHINAND, IS AIMED AT REINFORCING CONTINGENTS ALREADY ASSIGNED THERE IN THE WAKE OF SERIOUS DRA (SARANDOI) LOSSES IN THE AREA (AND ELSEWHERE). POSSIBLY CORROBORATING THE REPORTED SOVIET EFFORT TO CORDON OFF THE CITY, A TRAVELLER FROM HERAT NOTES THAT HE WAS PREVENTED FROM ENTERING KANDAHAR FOR FOUR DAYS RECENTLY WHEN TRAVELLING FROM HERAT THROUGH KANDAHAR TO KABUL. SEPARATELY, A DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN DOWNED A LARGE SOVIET MILITARY TRANSPORT AT KANDAHAR AIRPORT MARCH 29. A DIPLOMAT WITH EXCELLENT ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION REPORTS THAT ON MARCH 25-26, SOVIET AND DRA AIRCRAFT HEAVILY BOMBED AND STRAFED THE MALAJOT SUBURB OF KANDAHAR. DESTRUCTION IN THE 6-7 HOUR BOMBARDMENT CONFIDENTIAL
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WAS EXTENSIVE. MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY HAVE ROCKETERED THE CITY NIGHTLY DURING RECENT WEEKS, TARGETTING THE KANDAHAR HOTEL (SITE OF THE CITY TELEVISION CENTER) IN PARTICULAR. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A SOVIET POST IN THE SHINARI AREA (90 KMS SOUTH WEST OF KANDAHAR CITY) ON MARCH 25, KILLING 5 OR 6 SOVIET TROOPS. EARLIER, ON MARCH 19, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A SOVIET BASE AT DUREY JALAI (UNLOCATED) AND DESTROYED FIVE OIL TANKERS, ACCORDING TO A SOURCE OF UNTESTED RELIABILITY. THE SAME SOURCE REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN KILLED SOVIET TROOPS IN THE MAIWANT AREA (31°45'N 65°08'E) ON MARCH 20. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT WITH GOOD ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION NOTES THAT ON MARCH 29 DRA FORCES ORDERED ALL RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF PIR (NEAR KANDAHAR CITY) TO EVACUATE AND THEN BULLDOZED THE TOWN'S 40 TO 50 HOUSES. THE DRA REPORTEDLY SUSPECTED THAT THE VILLAGERS SYMPATHIZED WITH THE MUJAHIDIN.

8. LAGHMAN:

A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT ON MARCH 28-29 SOVIET INFANTRY FORCES (POSSIBLY SPETNAZ) SOUGHT TO AMBUSH A MUJAHIDIN UNIT MOVING TO ATTACK THE DISTRICT TOWN OF WARDAK. MUJAHIDIN FOILED THE INTENDED AMBUSH HOWEVER, WITH AN AMBUSH OF THEIR OWN IN WHICH 18 SOVIET TROOPS WERE KILLED. IN THE ALISHANG AREA (34°47'N 70°06'E) SOVIET FORCES CONDUCTED REPRISAL ATTACKS MARCH 15 AGAINST VILLAGERS IN RETRIBUTION FOR

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9. PAKTIA:

A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT CLAIMS THAT ON MARCH 28 AN AFGHAN
GENERAL, COMMANDER OF A BASE IN PAKTIA, WAS KILLED WHEN THE
AIRCRAFT HE WAS ABOARD WAS DOWNED BY MUJAHIDIN. A DIPLOMAT WHOSE
REPORTING ACCURACY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED STATES THAT
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MUJAHIDIN OVERRAN AND OCCUPIED SEVERAL BASES IN THE SANGI
AREA (NEAR THE AFGHAN-PAKISTANI BORDER) IN LATE-MARCH/
EARLY-APRIL. ACCORDING TO A GAROEZ RESIDENT, ORA OFFICIALS
IN THE TOWN COUNTENANCE RAMPANT CORRUPTION, FREQUENTLY
TAKING GOODS FROM SHOPOWNERS AT WILL. RECENTLY SOVIET RELIEF
GOODS HAVE BEEN SOLD WIDELY ON THE MARKET RATHER THAN DISTRIBUTED.
THE RESIDENT SAID THAT SOVIET TROOPS AND MUJAHIDIN ENGAGE IN
NEARLY DAILY COMBAT IN THE AREA.

10. LOGAR:

AN AFGHAN SOURCE WITH A RECORD OF GOOD REPORTING ACCURACY REPORTS THAT THERE IS HEAVY FIGHTING CURRENTLY THROUGHOUT MUCH OF LOGAR INVOLVING DRA AND SOVIET TROOPS WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO BLOCK MUJAHIDIN ROUTES OF INFILTRATION TO LOCATIONS SOUTH AND WEST OF KABUL. THE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT FIGHTING IN THE ZARGHUN SHAHR AREA (33 KMS SOUTH OF KABUL) HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY FIERCE. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT STATES THAT IN HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR LOGAR TOWN MARCH 23-24, MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED A DRA POST KILLING MANY DRA TROOPS AND DAMAGING THE PRINCIPAL BUILDING, A SCHOOL WHICH HAD BEEN CONVERTED TO DRA PURPOSES.

11. WARDAK:

A REGULAR VISITOR TO SAIYIDABAD (33°59'N 68°43'E) SAID THAT THE TOWN, 30 PERCENT OF WHOSE INHABITANTS HAVE FLED TO PAKISTAN, IS ALMOST ENTIRELY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MUJAHIDIN. IN THE TOWN B THE DRA OCCUPIES ONE BUILDING WHICH IS DEFENDED BY 50-60 DRA TROOPS. IN EARLY MARCH MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED THE SITE AND SUFFERED HEAVY (13 KILLED) CASUALTIES. MUJAHIDIN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE AREA HAS BEEN LIMITED TO ATTACKS ON SMALL CONVOYS OVER THE WINTER. SOURCE EXPECTS THE
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LEVEL OF MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITY TO PICK UP SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN THE LOCAL COMMANDER RETURNS FROM PAKISTAN. THE SOURCE BELIEVES THE MUJAHIDIN WILL BE MORE ACTIVE THIS YEAR THAN LAST BECAUSE, HE CLAIMS, THEY NOW ARE EQUIPPED WITH ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES. THE SOURCE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF DEPLETION OF THE LOCAL LABOR POOL AND DESTRUCTION OF FIELDS, AGRICULTURE IN THE AREA HAS DIMINISHED. MOST FOODSTUFFS ARE BROUGHT IN FROM KABUL. A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC AND AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORT THAT ON MARCH 27 MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A SOVIET CONVOY THREE TO FIVE KMS SOUTH OF MAIDAN SHAHAR, DESTROYING ONE ARMORED VEHICLE AND SIX TRUCKS.

12. HELMAND:

A VERY RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE REPORTS THAT IN EARLY-MID MARCH, LARGE SOVIET CONVOYS LEFT THE KANDAHAR AREA IN SUPPORT OF A SOVIET CAMPAIGN IN THE LASHKARGAH AREA. A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE OF UNPROVEN RELIABILITY CLAIMS THERE IS CURRENTLY HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE NAWAI AREA NEAR LASHKARGAH INVOLVING ABOUT 2,000 SOVIET TROOPS.

13. NINRUZ:

A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE OF UNPROVED RELIABILITY REPORTS THAT SOVIET AND DRA AIRCRAFT RECENTLY CARRIED OUT EXTENSIVE BOMBING IN THE ROBAT-E-JA'LI (TRI-BORDER) AREA WHICH RESULTED



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USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IDM//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USDDCSDUTH NAPLES IT
FSTC INTEL DPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-10-CMI//
C D N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 DF 09 KABUL 0593

14. GHAZNI:
A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE STATES THAT AT KIACH (TEN KMS WEST
OF GHAZNI) LOCAL REGIME OFFICIALS ON MARCH 28 ASSEMBLED THE
RESIDENTS TO LECTURE ABOUT THE REGIME'S NATIONAL RECONCILIATION
POLICY. MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED THE SITE CAPTURING SIX REGIME
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OFFICIALS. IN THE FIGHTING 12 CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED. ACCORDING
TO THE SAME SOURCE ON MARCH 24 IN FIGHTING NEAR QARABAGH, 7
DRA SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND 40 WOUNDED. TWO MUJAHIDIN WERE
WOUNDED.

15. PARWAN:

A VERY RELIABLE DIPLOMAT STATES THAT ON MARCH 28 MUJAHIDIN
DOWNED A DRA JET FIGHTER. THE MUJAHIDIN ALSO DESTROYED TWO

HELICOPTERS FROM A GROUP WHICH CONVERGED ON THE SITE. ONE HELICOPTER WAS DESTROYED ON THE GROUND WHILE THE OTHER WAS DOWNED BY A MISSILE AS IT HOVERED IN THE AREA.

16. JAUZJAN:

A DIPLOMAT WITH A VERY RELIABLE REPORTING RECORD CLAIMS THAT MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A DRA POST AT SARE-E-PDL (36°14'N 65°55'E) MARCH 27, KILLING 4 DRA TROOPS.

17. BALKH:

A RECENT VISITOR TO MAZAR-I-SHARIF STATES THAT THE AREA BEYOND TWO KMS FROM THE CITY IS CONTROLLED BY MUJAHIDIN. CITY RESIDENTS OBSERVE AN INFORMAL 2000 HOURS CURFEW.

18. HERAT:

AN AFGHAN RESIDENT OF HERAT WHO RECENTLY TRAVELLED BY ROAD FROM HERAT TO KABUL SAID THAT THE TRIP REQUIRED 15 DAYS. PART OF THE DELAY RESULTED FROM HAVING BEEN PREVENTED FROM PASSING THROUGH KANDAHAR FOR FOUR DAYS, DURING WHICH TIME THE SOURCE WAS HELD OUTSIDE THE CITY.

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19. NANGARHAR:

A SOURCE OF UNDERTERMINED RELIABILITY REPORTS THAT DURING MARCH IN HEAVY FIGHTING AT GHANIMEI (UNLOCATED) THE MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED SEVERAL ARMORED VEHICLES AND KILLED OVER 30 DRA.

20. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (21ST PLENUM): A SENIOR REGIME OFFICIAL AND PARTY MEMBER CLAIMS THAT THE PDPA'S 21ST PLENUM WILL CONVENE DURING THE SECOND OR THIRD WEEK OF APRIL. HE REPORTEDLY HAS EXPLAINED THAT THE PLENUM WAS DELAYED FOR SEVERAL REASONS, NOT THE LEASE OF WHICH WAS THE QUESTION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH KHALQI DEMANDS WHICH INCLUDE INSISTANCE ON AN EQUAL SHARE OF MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS, DYSFUNCTIONS, INCLUDING SENIOR EAST BLOC DIPLOMATS. CONTINUE TO EXPECT FURTHER PRESSURE ON SUPPORTERS OF FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY BABRAK KARMAL. POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE OUSTER OF DR. ANANHITA RATEBZAD FROM HER POLITBUREAU POST. IT IS RUMORED THAT SHE MAY HAVE ALREADY RESIGNED AND/OR BEEN OFFERED THE POST OF DRA CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN BELGRADE. OLD RUMORS REGARDING A POSSIBLE TRIAL FOR KARMAL HAVE RESURFACED THOUGH THESE ARE NOT CONFIRMED.

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-1 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09
L-03 PM-10 EAP-00 PA-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 RP-10
ACDA-12 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 OS-01 DSE-00 /074 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6290
INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

USIA WASHDC 1645
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USOCCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-ID-CMI//

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(B) (KHALQI REVIVAL: MEANWHILE, KHALQI FACTION MEMBERS ARE
WIDELY REPORTED TO BE IN HIGH SPIRITS FOLLOWING THE RELEASE
OF MAJOR KHALQI LEADERS FROM PRISON (REFTEL). THE
NUMBER OF THOSE RELEASED NOW REPORTEDLY STANDS AT 13.

(C) (THE KING:) IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, A BBC BROADCAST OF
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AN INTERVIEW BY FORMER AFGHAN KING ZAHIR SHAH REPORTEDLY
HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH GREAT INTEREST IN KABUL. SOME PARTY
PEOPLE REPORTEDLY BELIEVE HE IS THE ONLY FIGURE WITH
SUFFICIENT STATURE TO PROTECT THEM IN A TRANSITION PERIOD.
LOCAL AFGHANS HAVE COMMENTED ON THE LUCIDITY OF THE KING'S
RESPONSES AND GENERALLY REACTED POSITIVELY TO HIS COMMENTS.
(SEE PARA 28 FOR FURTHER COMMENTARY ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.)

21. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (MUJAHIDIN ATTACK SOVIET TERRITORY:) AN AFGHAN SOURCE HAS TOLD A VERY RELIABLE DIPLOMAT THAT IN EARLY MARCH MUJAHIDIN, UNDER THE COMMAND OF "GHULAM", ATTACKED A MATCH FACTORY AND ADJACENT SCHOOL IN TADZHIKISTAN. THE ATTACK RESULTED IN EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE FACILITIES, SOVIET CASUALTIES AND THE CAPTURE OF SEVERAL SOVIETS WHO WERE TAKEN BACK TO AFGHANISTAN. ACCORDING TO THE AFGHAN ACCOUNT, THE SOVIETS RETALIATED WITH VERY HEAVY AIR RAIDS AGAINST MUJAHIDIN AND CIVILIAN AREAS NEAR IMAM SAHIB IN KUNDUZ AND TALAQAN IN TAKHAR PROVINCES. IN THE IMAM SAHIB AREA, MUJAHIDIN ULTIMATELY WERE SAVED BY A ORA OFFICER WHO PROVIDED THEM AN ESCAPE ROUTE OUT OF THE AREA UNDER BOMBARDMENT. IN ALL, 30 MUJAHIDIN WERE KILLED AND 130 WOUNDED. SOVIET MEDIA, INCLUDING PRAVDA, AND REPORTEDLY THE MILITARY DAILY "RED STAR", REPORTED THE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED NEAR THE TOWN OF PENZ. ONE SOVIET ACCOUNT REPORTEDLY CLAIMS THAT 250 MUJAHIDIN CROSSED THE BORDER. A SEPARATE DIPLOMATIC REPORT INDICATES, WITHOUT ELABORATION, THAT MUJAHIDIN ALSO HAVE LAUNCHED ATTACKS INTO SOVIET TURKMENISTAN.

(B) (KABUL SECURITY:) A SENIOR, WELL-PLACED DIPLOMATIC SOURCE CLAIMS THAT KABUL OFFICIALS EXPECT MUJAHIDIN TO MOUNT VERY HEAVY ATTACKS IN THE KABUL AREA BUT VOW RUTHLESSNESS IN DEALING
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WITH SUCH ATTACKS. MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY ARE RE-ENTERING THE PAGHMAN AREA FROM THE JALREZ AREA.

(C) (AEROFLOT'S MYSTERY PASSENGERS:) AN AEROFLOT FLIGHT WHICH ARRIVED APRIL 2, AS DIPLOMATS AND OTHERS WERE DEPLANING FROM THE TWICE-WEEKLY INDIAN AIR FLIGHT, DID NOT DISCHARGE PASSENGERS UNTIL AFTER KABUL DIPLOMATS HAD LEFT THE AIRPORT. A DELAY OF OVER 30 MINUTES. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE PASSENGERS COULD HAVE BEEN SOVIET MILITARY.

(D) (NEW AIR DEFENSE PRECAUTIONS:) THREE DIPLOMATS OBSERVED A TU-134 AIRCRAFT DISPENSING INCENDIARY FLARES, USED BY MANY OTHER CRAFT IN THE AREA TO DIVERT HEAT-SEEKING ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES. THE TU-134 HAS NOT BEEN NOTED PREVIOUSLY TO HAVE A FLARE DISPENSING SYSTEM.

22. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (MARKET SURVEY:) PRICES FOR STAPLES IN KABUL OVER THE PERIOD LATE-FEBRUARY TO LATE-MARCH REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE ALTHOUGH THE PRICE FOR SOME KEY ITEMS FELL SOMEWHAT. WHEAT PRICES DROPPED TEN PERCENT, CONTINUING A JANUARY-TO-FEBRUARY TREND WHICH AMOUNTED TO A 25 PERCENT DROP IN 1987. THE DROP REFLECTS THE REGIME'S NEW POLICY ALLOWING GRAIN IMPORTS FROM PAKISTAN. MEAT PRICES ROSE 12 TO 15 PERCENT OVER LATE-FEBRUARY PRICES. WARMING TEMPERATURES CAUSED A REDUCTION IN

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FIREWOOD PRICES. GENERALLY, FUEL SUPPLIES IN KABUL WERE
ADEQUATE THOUGH SOM SPOT SHORTAGES OF DIESEL CONTINUE. THE
AFGHANI CONTINUED ITS DECLINE FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH AGAINST
ALL HARD CURRENCIES. REACHING THE LEVEL OF 162 TO ONE USOLLAR.

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AIO-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6291
INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE
USIA WASHDC 1646
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-10-CMI//
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(B) (AFGHANI INFLATION:) OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT THE
INFLATIONARY SPIRAL AFFECTING THE AFGHANI MAY RELATE TO
THE REPORTED IMPORTATION OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF NEW DRA CURRENCY
BY THE SOVIETS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY. MOREOVER, THE LOW
NUMBER OF RETURNING REFUGEES APPEARS TO HAVE RESULTED IN
LOWER DEMAND FOR AFGHANIS THAN THE REGIME ANTICIPATED. AN
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ECONOMIC EXPERT OBSERVES THAT MORE BROADLY THE AFGHANI
SUFFERS FROM A DETERIORATING DRA FOREIGN TRADE PICTURE WHICH
HAS SEEN EXPORT EARNINGS (MEASURED IN U.S. DOLLARS) FALL FROM
787 MILLION THE PREVIOUS YEAR TO 566 MILLION IN THE MOST RECENT
YEAR. THE DRA IS RECORDING A GROWING TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN
WHERE ITS 200 MILLION DOLLARS OF IMPORTS (UNOFFICIALLY
ESTIMATED AT 450 MILLION) IS NOT COMPENSATED BY AFGHANISTAN'S
MINIMAL EXPORTS TO THAT COUNTRY.

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	ATD-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00
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	L-03	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	RP-10
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O 060545Z APR 87
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6292
INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE
USIA WASHDC 1647

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
RUCFLNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USOCCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FSTC INTEL OPS HARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-10-CMI//
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26. DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS:

IN JOINT ANNOUNCEMENTS, THE DRA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE
ANNOUNCED THAT AS OF MARCH 31 THE TWO WOULD ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS.

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27. KABUL MEDIA

(A) (ANNAJIB STIFFENS POSTURE ON RECONCILIATION:) IN A SPEECH
CARRIED IN THE LOCAL LANGUAGE MEDIA, APRIL 4, NAJIB RETURNED
TO THE THEME ENUNCIATED SOME MONTHS AGO THAT ANY WITHDRAWAL
OF SOVIET TROOPS WAS TIED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE REGIME'S
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION STRATEGY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE
REGIME WAS PREPARED TO DEAL WITH FORCE WITH THOSE ELEMENTS
NOT ACCEPTING THE RECONCILIATION OFFER.

(B) (DRA DEFENSE OFFICIAL CONTRADICTS NAJIB ON CHINA)
 IN A FEBRUARY 28 INTERVIEW WITH THE PAKISTANI NEWSPAPER "THE
 MUSLIM". DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER MOHAMMED AZIMI, CONTRADICTION
 NAJIB'S STATEMENT OF A MONTH EARLIER IN AN INTERVIEW WITH
 THE ITALIAN "UNITA" IN WHICH HE STATED THAT CHINESE
 SUPPORT FOR "ARMED GROUPS" WAS "NO LONGER APPARENT. AZIMI
 STATES "...THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE CHINESE ATTITUDE
 TOWARDS OUR COUNTRY. THEY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE GUERRILLAS
 AT THE SAME LEVEL AS BEFORE."

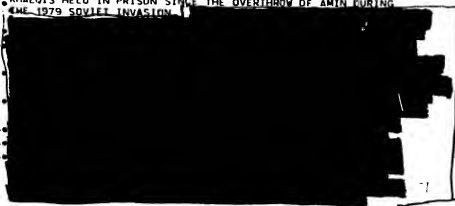
(C) (KABUL MEDIA ATTACKS PAKISTANI DOWNING OF AN-26)
 THE KABUL MEDIA DEVOTED GREAT ATTENTION TO THE PAKISTANI
 DOWNING OF AN AN-26 WHICH INTRUDED INTO PAKISTANI AIRSPACE,
 INSISTING THAT IT WAS A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT.

28. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

.....
 (A) (DEEPENING FRACTURES WITHIN THE PARTY AND REGIME:) THE
 APPARENT DELAY IN CONVENING THE POPA'S 21ST PLENUM (DESPITE THE
 ARRIVAL OF MANY AMBASSADORS AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN
 KABUL) REFLECTS THE DEEPENING DIVISIONS WITHIN THE PARTY AND
 THE REGIME. IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THE KHALOIS FEEL
 THEMSELVES IN THE ASCENDANCE WITH THE RECENT ACQUIESCENCE TO ONE
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OF THE PRINCIPAL KHALOIS DEMANDS, THE RELEASE OF PROMINENT
 KHALOIS HELD IN PRISON SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF AMIN DURING
 THE 1979 SOVIET INVASION.



(C) (THE SOVIET ROLE:) OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT THE SOVIETS
 HAVE COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT THE PASHTOONS ARE A
 SINE QUA NON FOR CONTROL IN AFGHANISTAN. CONSEQUENTLY,
 MOSCOW, THROUGH ITS CURRENT CHOICE NAJIB (A PASHTOON) AND
 THROUGH APPEALS TO PASHTOON TRIBALS AND EVEN THE KHALOIS,
 APPEARS TO BE CASTING ITS LOT INCREASINGLY WITH THE ONE GROUP
 THAT TRADITIONALLY HAS DOMINATED ETHNIC POLITICS HERE, BUT
 WHICH UNTIL RECENTLY HAS SEEN ITS AMBITIONS CIRCUMSCRIBED BY

MOSCOWS PENCHANT FOR BALLANCING OF GROUPS AND FORCES.

29 MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED EALUM

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